

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 15, 2008. Claims 7-22 are currently pending in the application. The Office Action: objected to the Specification; rejected Claims 7-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112; rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102; and rejected Claims 8-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 7-14 and 19-22 are amended herein. Although no fees are believed to be due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which may be due and owing.

The Office Action objected to the Abstract of the Specification. The Abstract is amended in order to be within the range of 50 to 150 words.

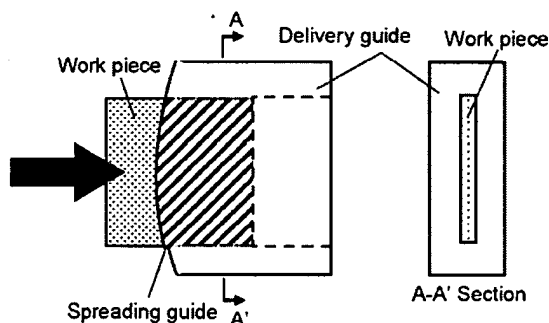
The Office Action rejected Claims 7-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 7 to 14 and 19 to 22 are amended to address the rejections under second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, and Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome.

The Office Action rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,782,063 to Boriani et al. ("Boriani"). Claim 7 is the sole independent claim and has been amended to recite, at least in part, "a spreading guide provided on the periphery surface of the transit aperture of the delivery guide device, and whose center area in the transverse direction protrudes toward the rear in a transporting direction of the work piece so as to gradually spread the wrapping sheet out from a center area in the transverse direction of the work piece towards both edges thereof with the work piece advances through the transit aperture." Support for amended Claim 7 can be found, for example, at paragraphs [0037] and [0038] of the Specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added through the claim 7.

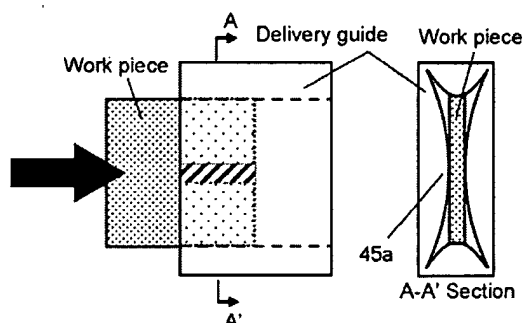
The work piece wrapping apparatus according to the amended Claim 7 includes a feature in which a spreading guide is provided on the periphery surface of the transit aperture of the delivery guide device, and whose center area in the transverse direction protrudes toward the rear in a transporting direction of the work piece so as to gradually spread the wrapping sheet out from a center area in the transverse direction of the work piece towards both edges thereof with the work piece advances through the transit aperture. With this feature, since the wrapping film

that is being pressed by the work piece is pushed from the center portion of the surface of the work piece outwards towards both outer sides by the guide portion, any wrinkling and residual air can be pushed out towards the outside. As a result, the work piece can be tightly wrapped without any wrinkling and/or residual air.

On the other hand, the above-mentioned feature of the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested in Boriani. Specifically, Boriani discloses the delivery guide device 33 having convex portions 45a. (See, Boriani, col. 3, line 44 to col. 4, line 15). However, the convex portions 45a in Boriani are provided not on the periphery surface of the transit aperture of the delivery guide device, but rather on an inner surface of the transit aperture of the delivery guide device. Therefore, in Boriani, since only the vicinity of the top of the convex portion 45a contacts with the inner surface of the transit aperture of the delivery guide device as shown in following schematic drawings (in the drawings, hatched area shows contacting surface between the work piece and the inner surface of the transit aperture of the delivery guide device), any wrinkling and residual air cannot be pushed out towards the outside.



The Present Claimed Invention



Boriani et al.

As has been explained above, the work piece wrapping apparatus according to amended Claim 7 includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested in Boriani. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 7 should be allowable.

Regarding the obvious rejections to Claims 8-22 over Boriani in view of the remaining cited references, Applicants believe that Claims 8-22 should also be allowable due at least to its dependency on the Claim 7, and for the additional elements recited therein, even assuming that the secondary references are properly combinable with Boriani.

Respectfully submitted,

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